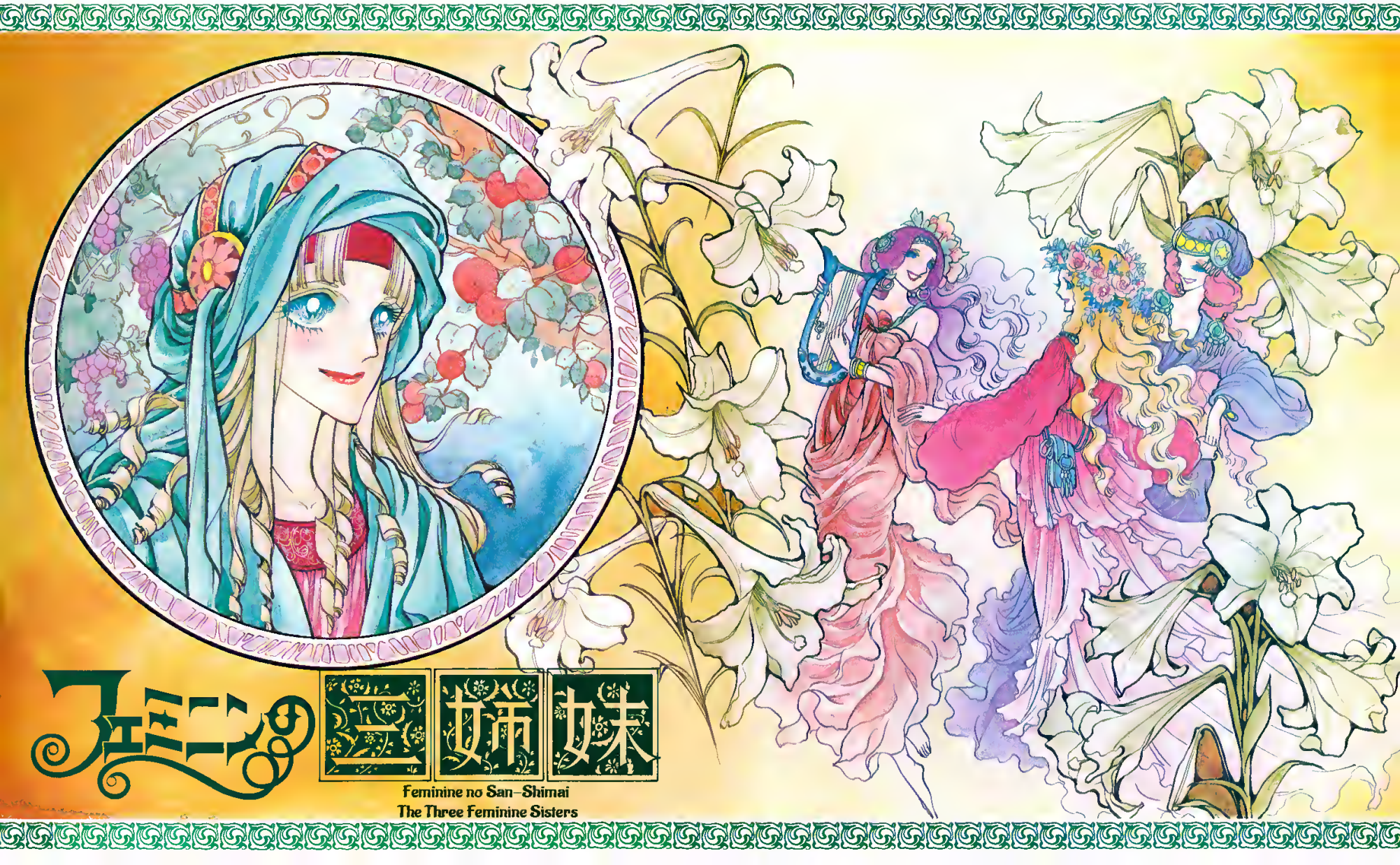


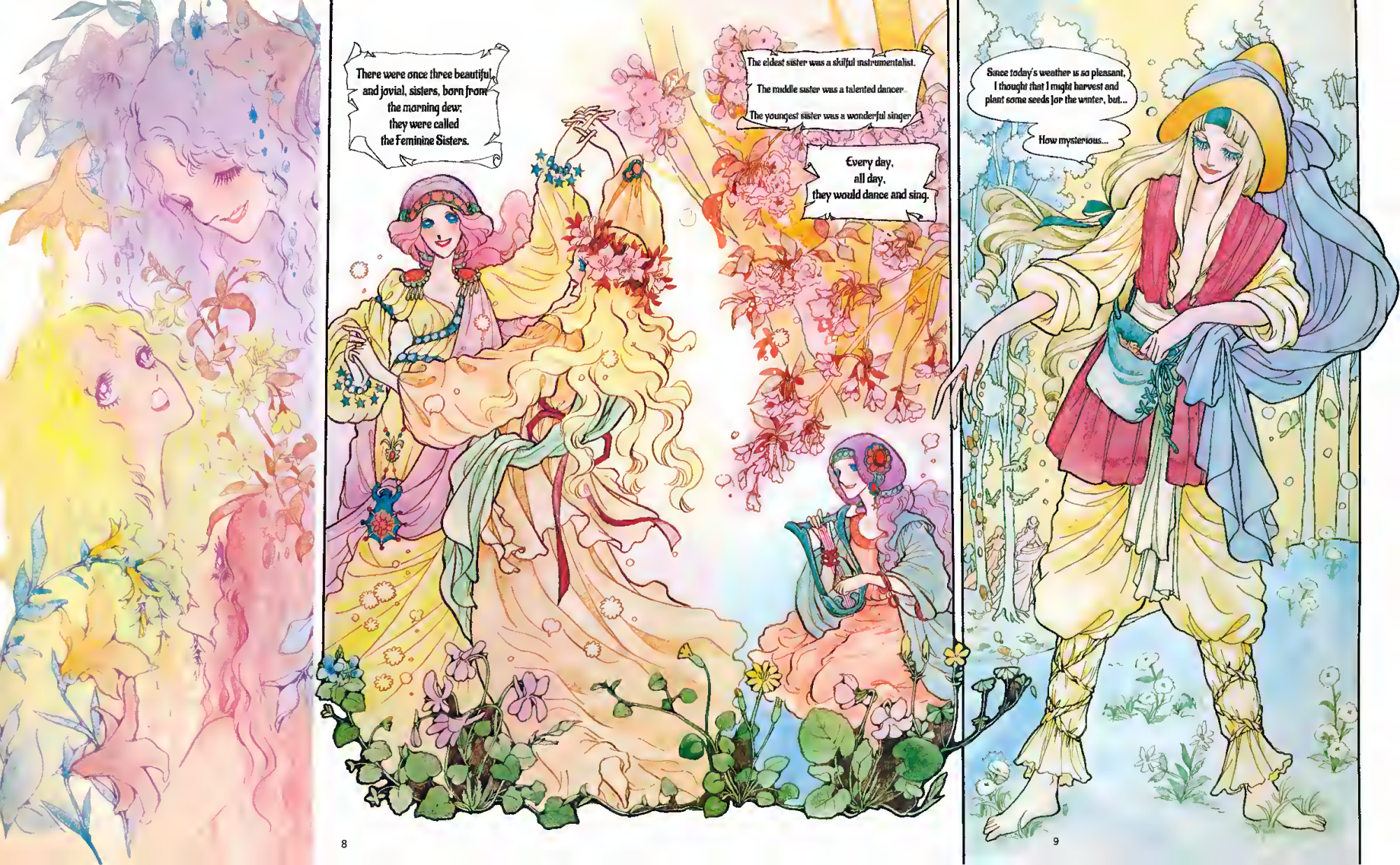
Feminine no San-Shimai

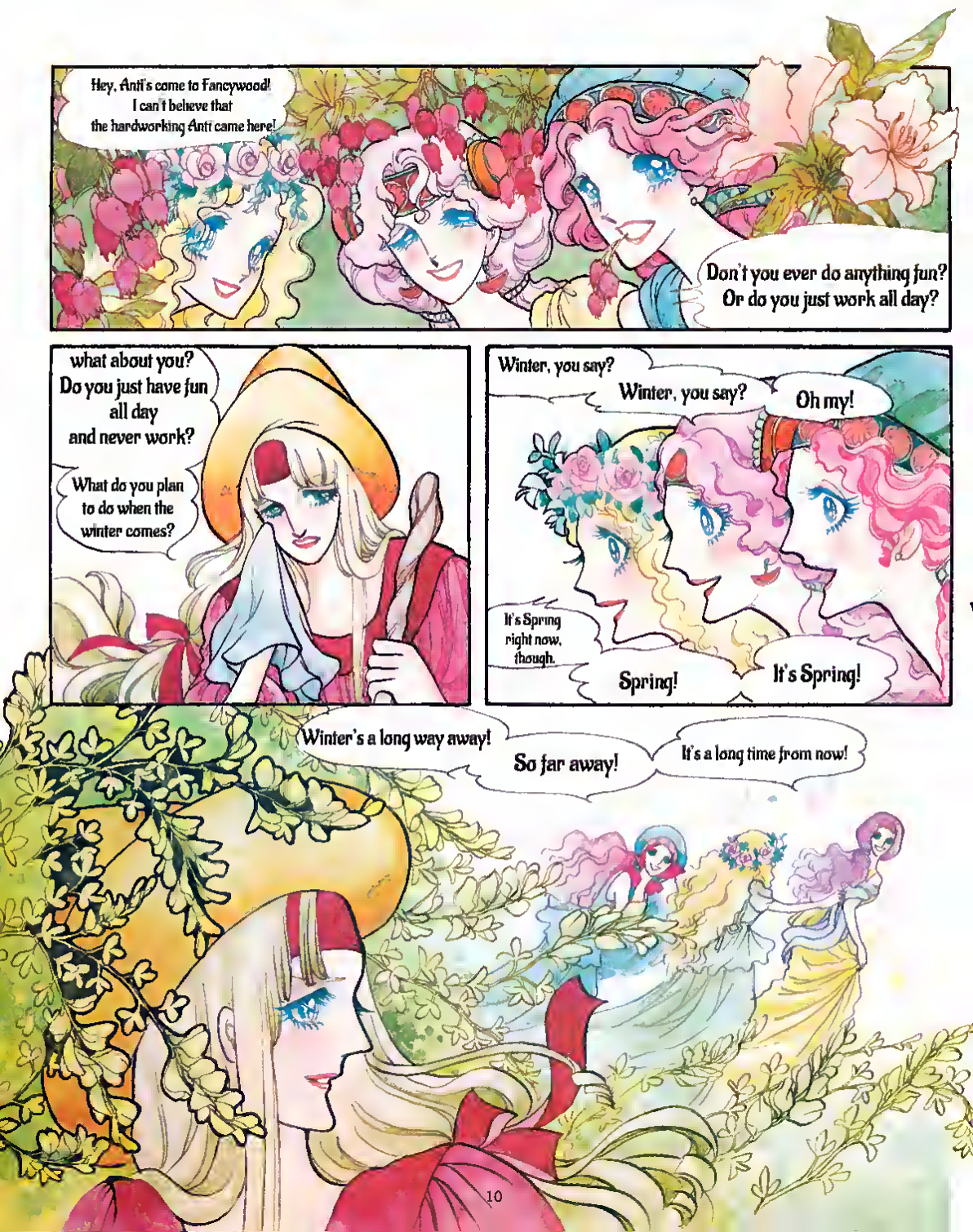
The Three Feminine Sisters

Feminine no San-Shimai (The Three Feminine Sisters) by Izumi Yoko

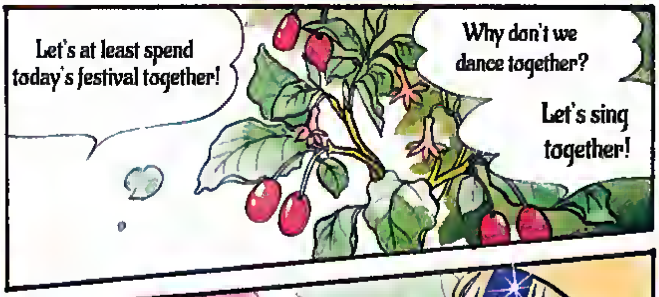
Extreme thanks to Laika (laikagohome.tumblr.com) for cleaning and editing the images and to Cathy Delanssay (cathy-delanssay.tumblr.com) for scanning this manga for me! Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Note on the Text: This manga is an interpretation of the fable of The Ant and The Grasshopper.

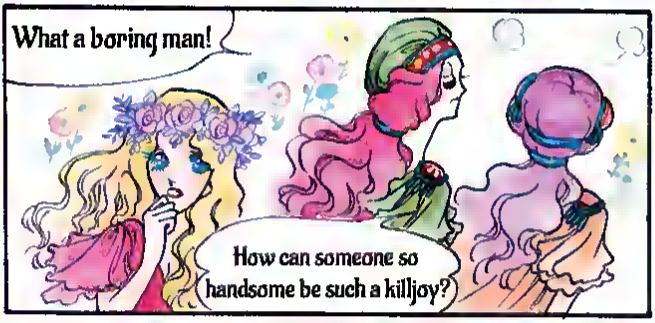

There were once three beautiful, and jovial, sisters, born from the morning dew; they were called the Feminine Sisters.
The eldest sister was a skilful instrumentalist.
The middle sister was a talented dancer.
The youngest sister was a wonderful singer.
Every day, all day, they would dance and sing.
Since today's weather is so pleasant, I thought that I might harvest and plant some seeds for the winter, but...
How mysterious...

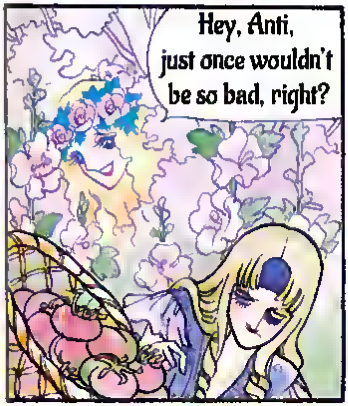

Hey, Anti's come to Fancywood! I can't believe that the hardworking Anti came here!
Don't you ever do anything fun? Or do you just work all day?
what about you? Do you just have fun all day and never work?
What do you plan to do when the winter comes?
Winter, you say?
Winter, you say?
Oh my!
It's Spring right now, though.
Spring!
It's Spring!
Winter's a long way away!
So far away!
It's a long time from now!

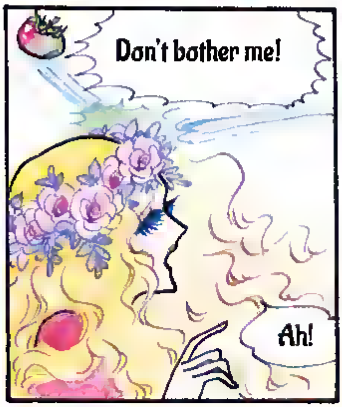
Anti, Come swim with us!
The water's nice and cool!

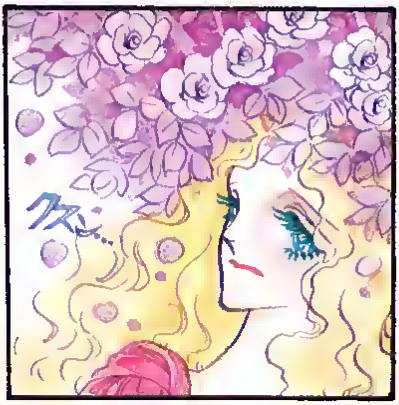

Let's at least spend today's festival together!
Why don't we dance together?
Let's sing together!

Don't bother me!
Go away, you lazy Feminine Sisters!

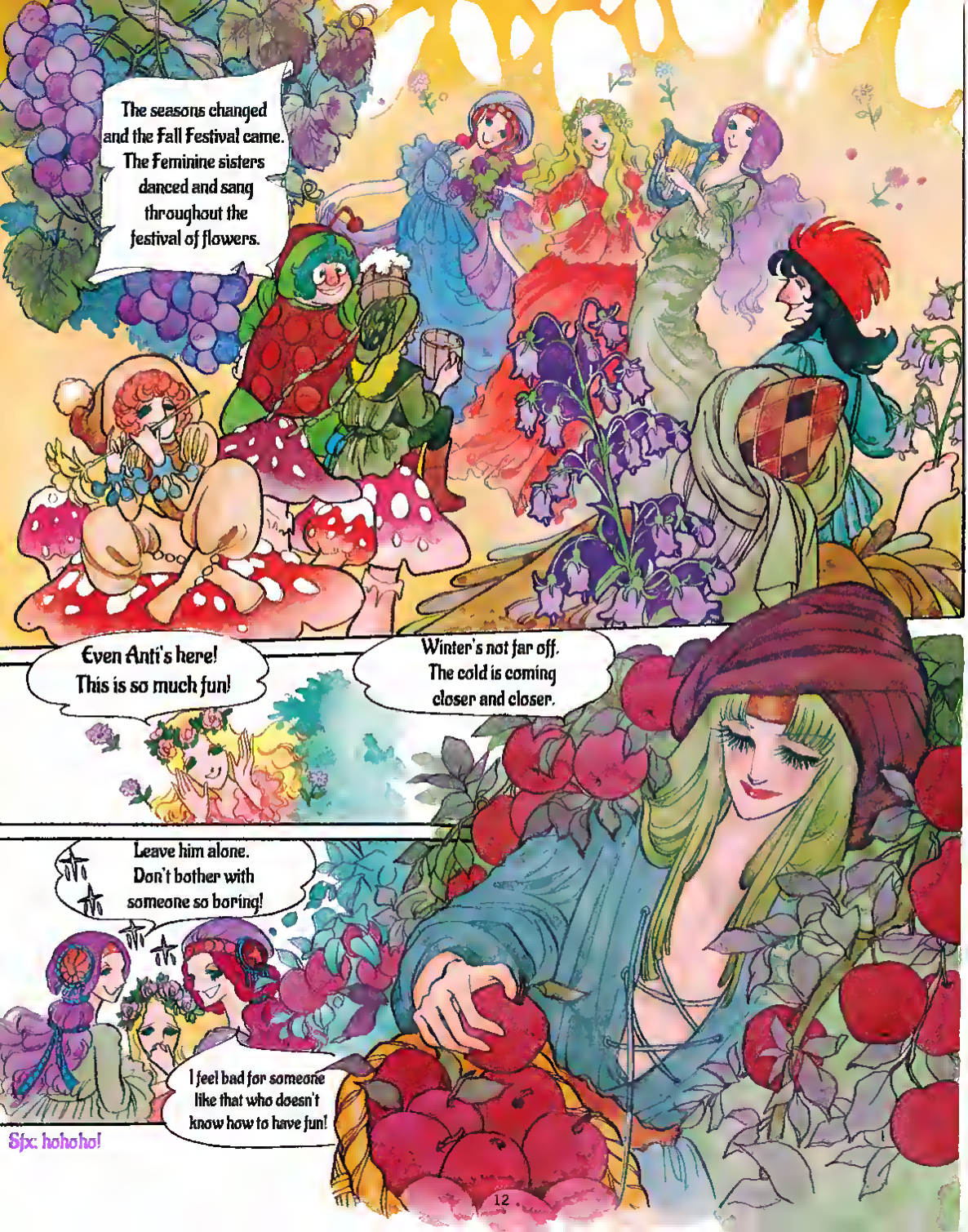

What a boring man!
How can someone so handsome be such a killjoy?

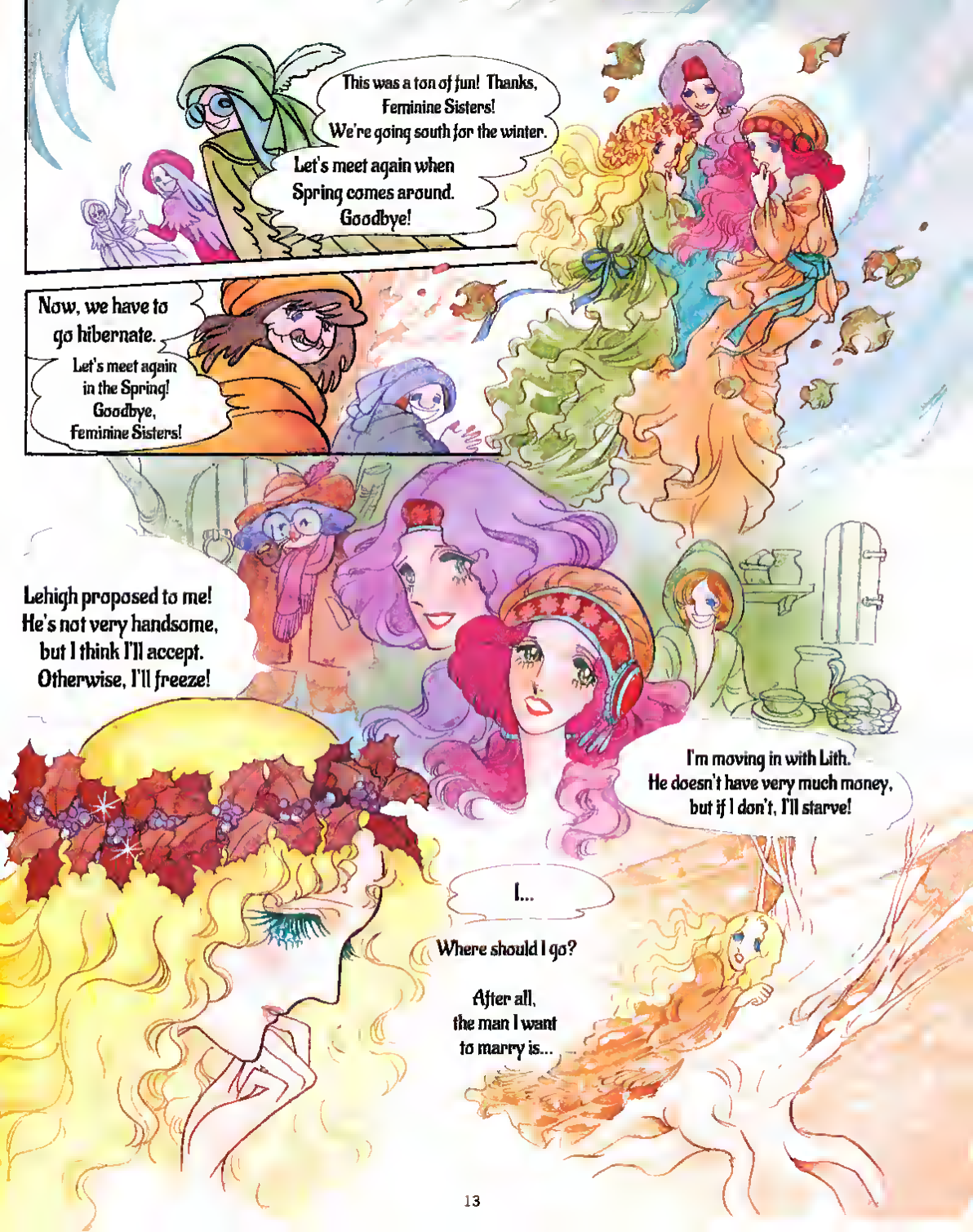

Hey, Anti, just once wouldn't be so bad, right?

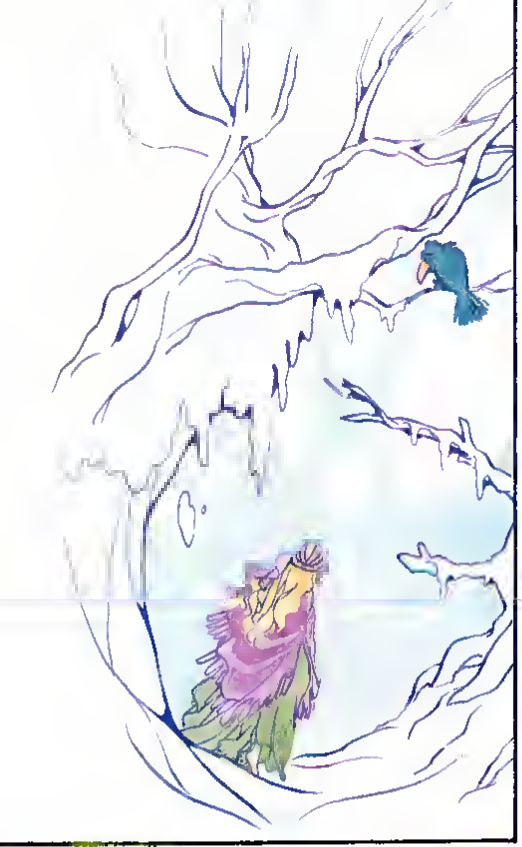

Don't bother me!
Ah!

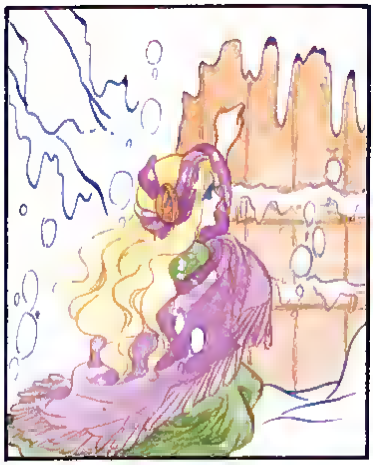


sfx: sniffle


The seasons changed and the Fall Festival came. The Feminine sisters danced and sang throughout the festival of flowers.
Even Anti's here! This is so much fun!
Winter's not far off. The cold is coming closer and closer.
Leave him alone. Don't bother with someone so boring!
I feel bad for someone like that who doesn't know how to have fun!
Sfx: hohoho!

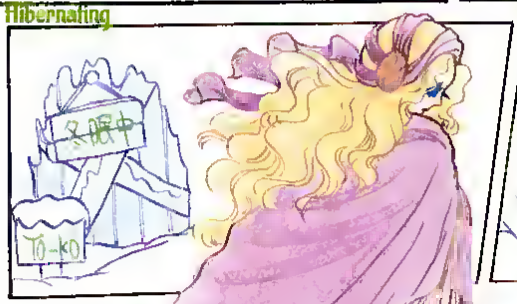

This was a ton of fun! Thanks, Feminine Sisters! We're going south for the winter.
Let's meet again when Spring comes around. Goodbye!
Now, we have to go hibernate.
Let's meet again in the Spring! Goodbye, Feminine Sisters!
Lehigh proposed to me! He's not very handsome, but I think I'll accept. Otherwise, I'll freeze!
I'm moving in with Lith. He doesn't have very much money, but if I don't, I'll starve!
I...
Where should I go?
After all, the man I want to marry is...



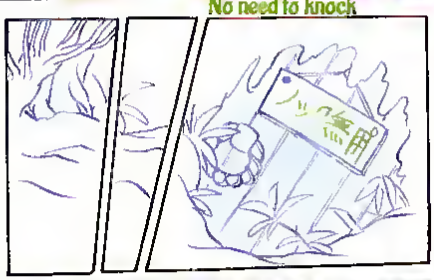


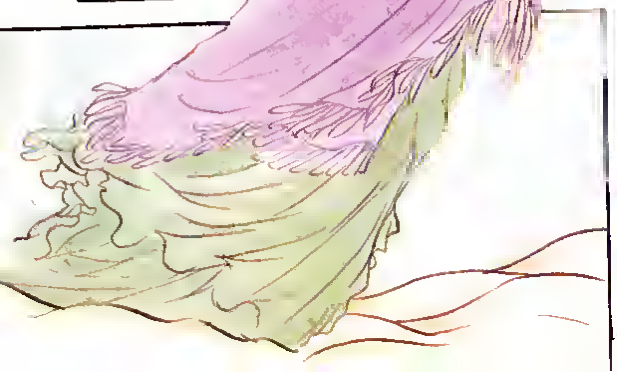
I feel sorry for you, but we only have enough provisions for two people.
You should go to Anti's place.

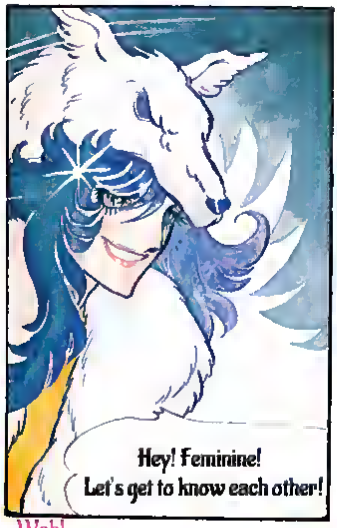
I'm so sorry... but we can't feed you or else we'll starve.
If you go to Anti's, I'm sure he'll have enough food for you.

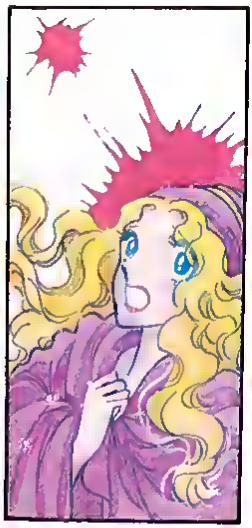

Hibernating
冬眠中
TO-KO

Hibernating
冬眠中

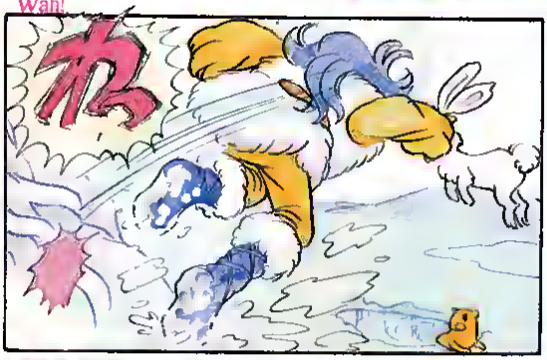

No need to knock

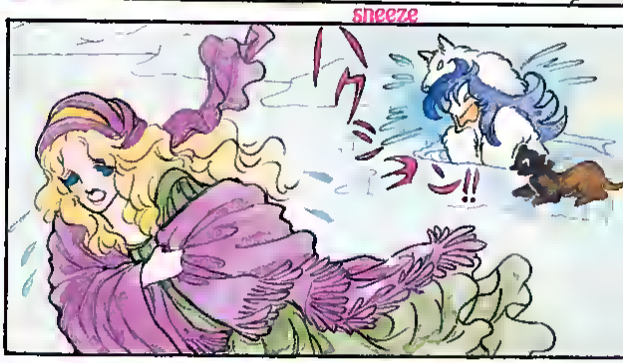



Hey! Feminine!
Let's get to know each other!

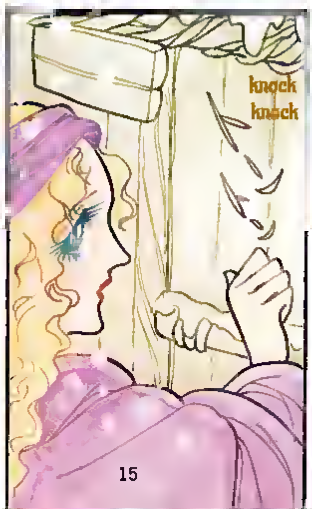


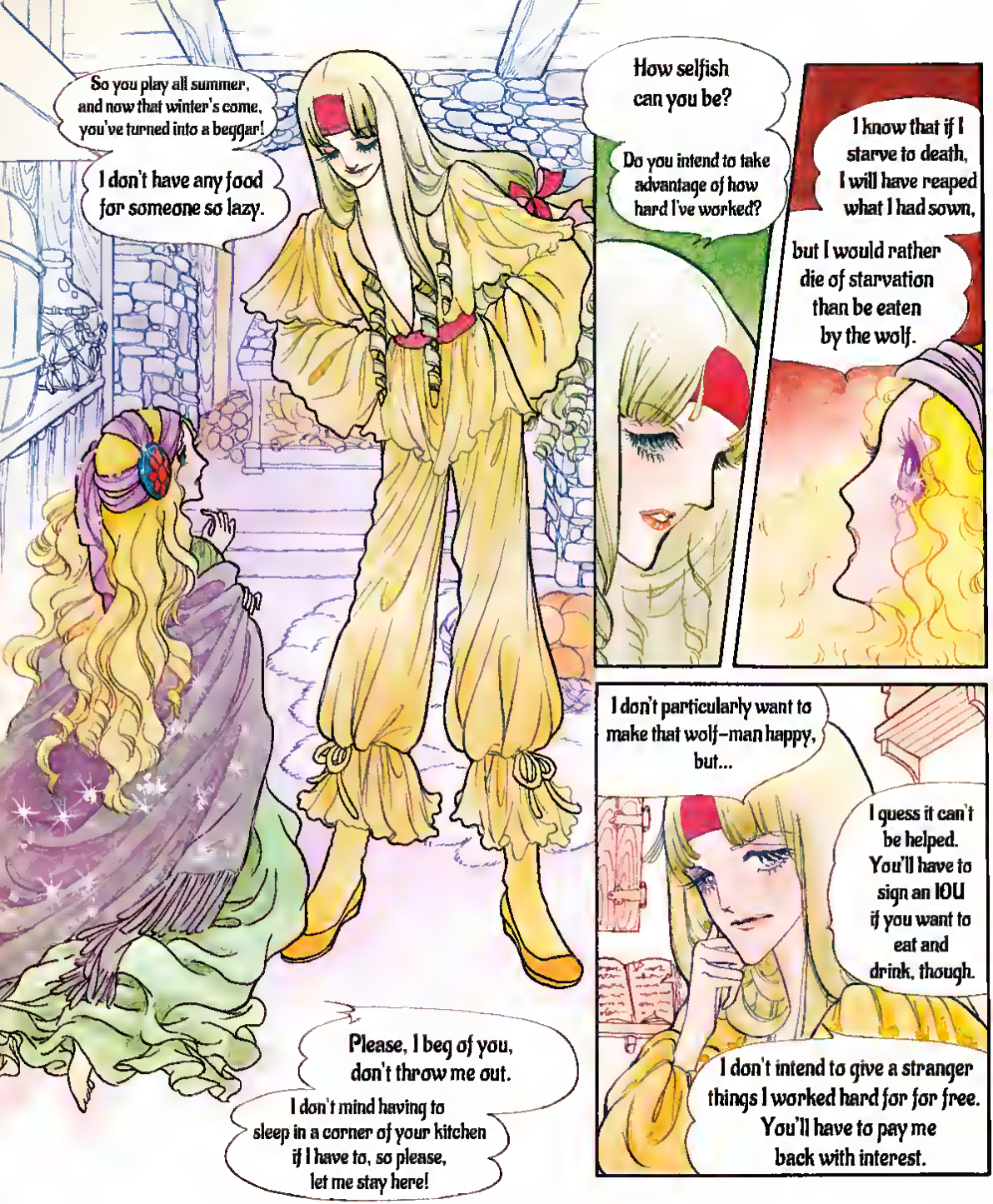
Don't run away, Feminine!
Come home with me!
I have enough meat and fur for you. I'll take good care of you!
No way, no way, no way!
Don't come near me!

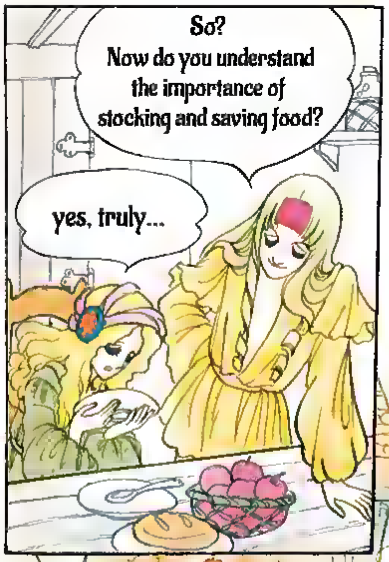

Wah!


sneeze
!!

sniffle
ふぅ
ふぅ


knock
knock


So you play all summer, and now that winter's come, you've turned into a beggar!
I don't have any food for someone so lazy.
Please, I beg of you, don't throw me out.
I don't mind having to sleep in a corner of your kitchen if I have to, so please, let me stay here!
How selfish can you be?
Do you intend to take advantage of how hard I've worked?
I know that if I starve to death, I will have reaped what I had sown,
but I would rather die of starvation than be eaten by the wolf.
I don't particularly want to make that wolf-man happy, but...
I guess it can't be helped. You'll have to sign an IOU if you want to eat and drink, though.
I don't intend to give a stranger things I worked hard for for free. You'll have to pay me back with interest.



When spring comes, you'll come work in the fields with me. You can pay back your debts with interest and store food for yourself for the next winter.

You won't have any time to play, though.

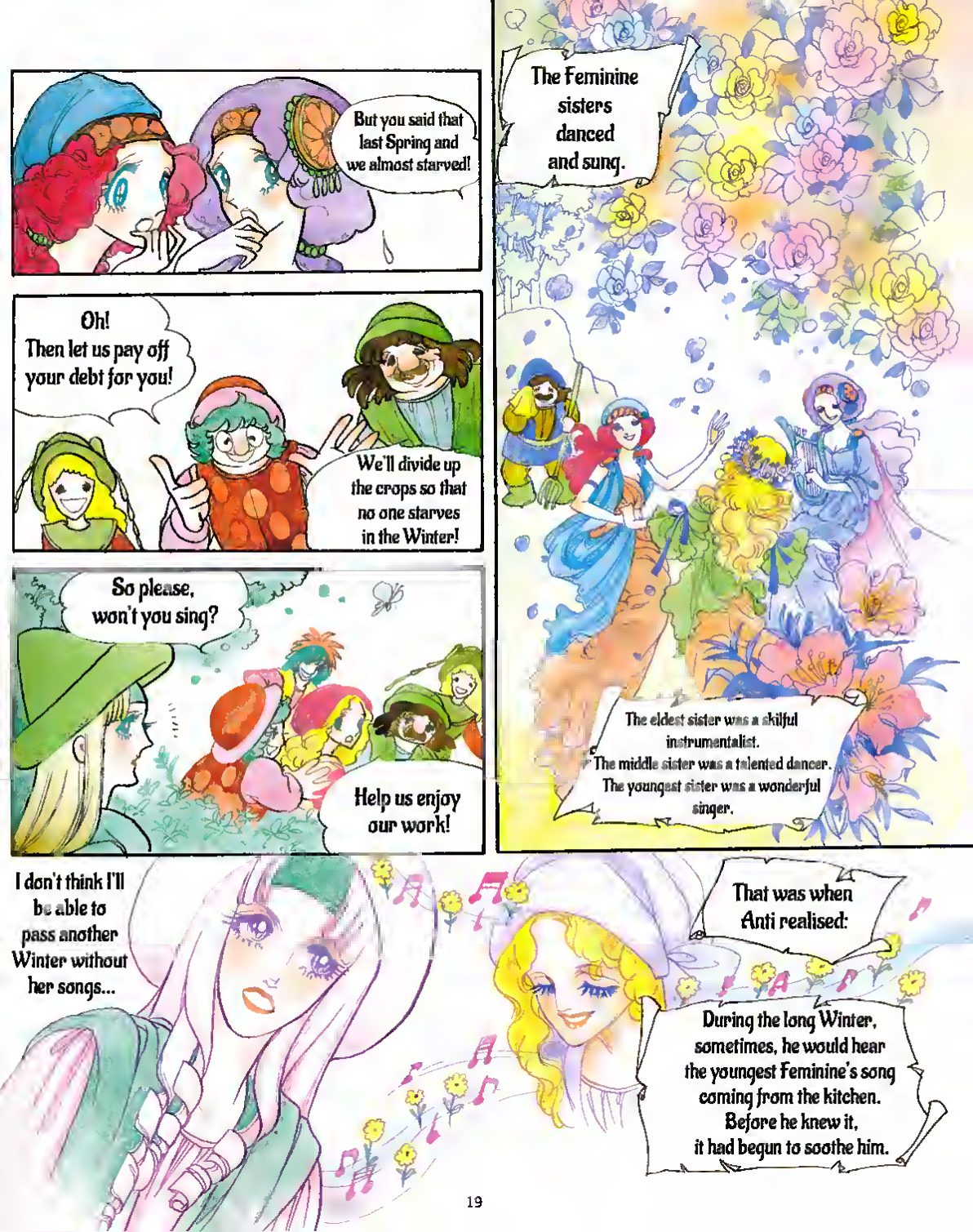
If you don't like it, you can choose to starve. That would be your punishment.

Oh, Anti... I should be happier that I get to spend the winter with my love but...

I can't wait for spring...

Then I can work hard and win your affection.

And then Spring came
With the warm southern wind, everything was reborn.
But it's strange...
Although it's Spring, we feel no excitement and have no will to work...
?
?
?
That's it! It's because those three, cheerful Feminine sisters aren't around!
Without my youngest sister singing, I can't play any songs.
Without her, I can't dance.
I can't! I have to work!
I have to repay my debts to Anti and prepare rations for the Winter!
Winter?!
My!
But it's Spring now!
Spring!


But you said that last Spring and we almost starved!
Oh! Then let us pay off your debt for you!
We'll divide up the crops so that no one starves in the Winter!
So please, won't you sing?
Help us enjoy our work!
The Feminine sisters danced and sung.
The eldest sister was a skilful instrumentalist.
The middle sister was a talented dancer.
The youngest sister was a wonderful singer.
I don't think I'll be able to pass another Winter without her songs...
That was when Anti realised:
During the long Winter, sometimes, he would hear the youngest Feminine's song coming from the kitchen. Before he knew it, it had begun to soothe him.

And that was when he first knew that the youngest Feminine sister had an invisible power: Her singing gave people joy and was food for the heart.

It would be a waste to make her work.

And he knew that the warmth floating over his heart was love.

However, Anti, who had never done anything but work, had no idea how to express his feelings.

What's wrong, Youngest Feminine? You've seemed unhappy, lately.

I just really wanted to work on Anti's farm...

but why? We can just live our lives freely, dancing and enjoying ourselves.

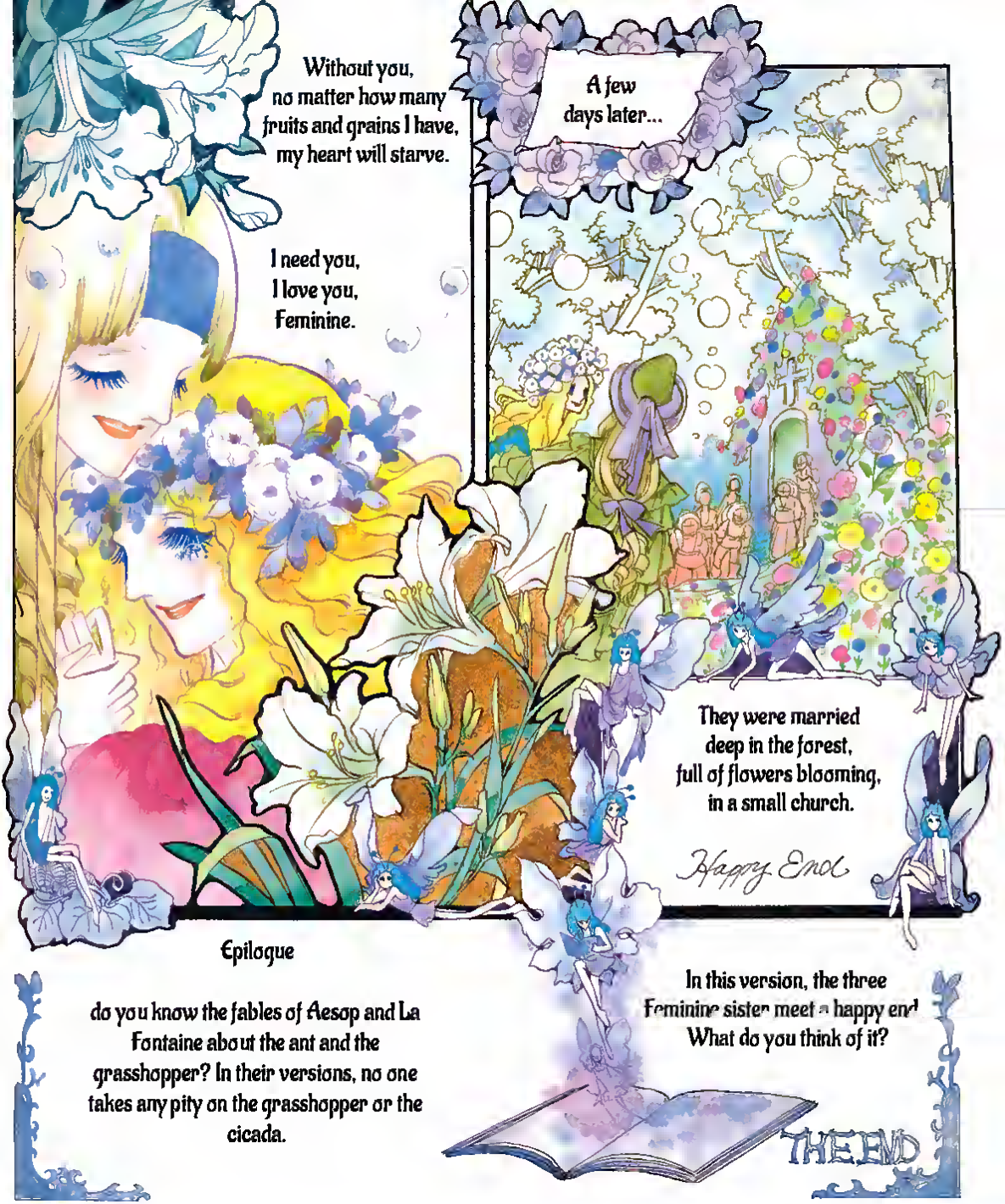
But Anti hates sloths. If I spend all day singing, he'll start to hate me, too.

I want to make him love me!

Oh! Feminine!

I love you! I think I love you! Feminine!

Oh my! Anti!


Without you,
no matter how many
fruits and grains I have,
my heart will starve.
I need you,
I love you,
Feminine.
A few
days later...
They were married
deep in the forest,
full of flowers blooming,
in a small church.
Happy End
Epiloque
do you know the fables of Aesop and La
Fontaine about the ant and the
grasshopper? In their versions, no one
takes any pity on the grasshopper or the
cicada.
In this version, the three
Feminine sister meet a happy end
What do you think of it?
THE END